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SWEET BRIAR COLLEGE

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Riding Program



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RIDING has always been a popular feature of the physical education and recreation program at Sweet Briar. The 3,300-acre campus in the foothills of the Blue Ridge Mountains is ideal for cross-country riding and hunting, and the excellent facilities of the Harriet Howell Rogers Riding Center complete the physical assets available to riders.

Long distinguished for its excellence, the Riding Program is directed by experienced, competent instructors who maintain the highest professional standards for teaching the riding and schooling of hunters and jumpers. The Riding Program is an approved Riding Establishment member of the American Horse Show Association.

THE RIDING PROGRAM

Sweet Briar is a four-year liberal arts college for women. In keeping with the educational objectives of the college, the Riding Program is academically-oriented.

Instruction is offered from elementary through advanced levels in fourteen courses of a carefully-planned curriculum. The primary aim is to enable students to develop their equestrian skills and knowledge to their fullest capabilities through a sound educational program. Course-offerings include:

Position and Control
Introduction to Jumping
Introduction to Combined Training
Showing Hunters
Dressage Sportif

Cross-country Jumping and Fox-hunting
Horse Science
Theory and Practice of Schooling Young
and Problem Horses

The average enrollment in riding, for instruction and for recreation, is about 200 each year. Some students elect courses in riding to fulfill the two-term requirement in physical education, and many take additional courses to improve their riding and theoretical knowledge.

Those who qualify and who wish to take more intensive work for academic credit may select from the following: two advanced full-term courses; a Winter-term course; and one taught in the summer. Clinics and lectures by leading competitors and riding authorities are scheduled during the academic year.

Qualified students participate in additional riding activities, on and off campus, such as hunter trials, horse trials, trail riding, and fox hunting regularly with the Farmington and Bedford Hunts. They compete in horse shows at Sweet Briar and nearby, as well as in some A-rated shows. The Student Riding Council organizes some of these events and contributes leadership to the Riding Program. They also assist the instructors in judging fellow students in Hacker, Rated Rider, Riding Leader, and Jumping Leader tests.

The instructional program is supported by a growing library collection of books on modern riding techniques, the history of horsemanship, and fox hunting.





THE ROGERS RIDING CENTER

Headquarters of the Riding Program are in the Harriet Howell Rogers Riding Center, a new facility opened in 1971. Several classes or activities may be conducted simultaneously in the indoor arena. It measures 300 x 120 feet and provides ample space for horse shows. The Center also includes faculty offices and a large room for classes and meetings, tack and feed rooms, and 57 box stalls to accommodate the horses owned by the College and approximately 30 that are privately owned. Freshmen are asked to wait until they arrive at Sweet Briar for the opening of college to make application to bring a horse.

In the area surrounding the building there are 12 turn-out paddocks, two rings, and a field, with access to extensive riding trails and paneled cross-country and hunter-trial courses.

Equipment includes professional show fences; a van, used to transport horses to hunts and shows; and a shuttle bus which carries students between the main campus and the Riding Center, a distance of one mile.

OPEN CLINICS, RATING CENTERS, AND SUMMER COURSE

Sweet Briar annually sponsors a one-week riding clinic in late May or early June for experienced professional teachers and qualified amateurs. Three DGWS-DMA National Riding Committee Rating Centers are held at Sweet Briar each year for candidates who are ready to be examined.

The College also sponsors a four-week summer course, Contemporary Riding and Schooling, from mid-June to mid-July, open to a small number of adults. College credit may be awarded to those who complete the course.





CAREERS IN RIDING

Students who are interested in riding as a career should discuss their plans and career-goals as early as possible with the Director of the Riding Program. Credentials which have proved valuable to graduates seeking employment as riding teachers include the Sweet Briar bachelor of arts degree, an official transcript showing the riding courses which have been successfully completed, and a letter of personal recommendation from the Director. A DGWS-DMA National Rider Rating provides an additional advantage.

FEES FOR RIDING

In addition to the college comprehensive fee, students who elect riding for credit in physical education may purchase one of three blocks of rides available each term. The complete schedule of fees is listed in the Sweet Briar catalog.

Riding boots, breeches or chaps, and a hard hat are required attire.

Some students are employed, up to 10 hours a week, to assist the stable staff, cleaning tack, grooming and turning out horses. A few advanced students work as teaching assistants. Application for all student jobs is made through the office of the Dean of Students.

For further information about riding at Sweet Briar, including clinics, Rating Centers, and the summer course, write to

Paul D. Cronin
Director of Riding Program
Sweet Briar College
Sweet Briar, Virginia 24595

For a Sweet Briar catalog and information about admission, prospective students are requested to write to

Director of Admission
Sweet Briar College
Sweet Briar, Virginia 24595



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